

§ 295.3

(m) *Emergency Preparedness Program Agreement*, means the agreement, required by section 653 of the act, between a Contractor and the Secretary of Transportation (acting through MARAD) to make certain commercial transportation resources available during time of war or national emergency.

(n) *Enrollment*, means the entry into a MSP Operating Agreement with the MARAD to operate a vessel(s) in the MSP Fleet in accordance with §295.20 of this part.

(o) *Fiscal Year*, means any annual period beginning on October 1 and ending on September 30.

(p) *LASH Vessel*, means a lighter aboard ship vessel.

(q) *Militarily Useful*, is defined according to DOD Joint Strategic Planning Capabilities Plan (JSCAP) guidance as follows:

(1) *U.S. Sources*—All active and inactive ocean-going ships (and certain other specially selected vessels) within the following types and criteria from United States sources with a minimum speed of 12 knots.

(2) *Dry Cargo*—All dry cargo ships, including integrated tug/barges (ITBs) with a minimum capacity of 6,000 tons (DWT) capable of carrying, without significant modification, any of the following cargoes: unit equipment, ammunition, or sustaining supplies.

(r) *MSP Fleet*, means the fleet of vessels operating under MSP Operating Agreements.

(s) *MSP Operating Agreement*, means the MSP Operating Agreement, providing for MSP payments entered into by a Contractor and MARAD.

(t) *MSP Payments*, means the payments made for the operation of U.S.-flag vessels in the foreign trade or mixed foreign and domestic trade of the United States allowed under a registry endorsement issued under 46 U.S.C. 12105, to maintain intermodal shipping capability and to meet national defense and security requirements in accordance with the terms and conditions of the MSP Operating Agreement.

(u) *Ocean Common Carrier*, means a carrier that meets the requirements of the MSA, section 654(3).

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(v) *ODS*, means Operating-Differential Subsidy provided by Subtitle A, Title VI, of the Act.

(w) *Operating Day*, means any day during which a vessel is operated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the MSP Operating Agreement.

(x) *Related party*, means:

(1) a holding company, subsidiary, affiliate, or associate of a contractor who is a party to an operating agreement under Subtitle B, Title VI, of the Act; and

(2) an officer, director, agent, or other executive of a contractor or of a person referred to in paragraph (x)(1) of this section.

(y) *Roll-on/Roll-off Vessel*, means a vessel that has ramps allowing cargo to be loaded and discharged by means of wheeled vehicles so that cranes are not required.

(z) *Secretary*, means the Secretary of Transportation.

(aa) *United States Documented Vessel*, means a vessel documented under Chapter 121 of Title 46, United States Code.

§ 295.3 Waivers.

In special circumstances, and for good cause shown, the procedures prescribed in this part may be waived in writing by the Maritime Administration, by mutual agreement of the Maritime Administration and the Contractor, so long as the procedures adopted are consistent with the Act and with the objectives of these regulations.

Subpart B—Establishment of MSP Fleet and Eligibility

§ 295.10 Eligibility requirements.

(a) *Applicant*. Any person may apply to MARAD for Enrollment of Eligible Vessels in MSP Operating Agreements for inclusion in the MSP Fleet pursuant to the provisions of subtitle B, title VI, of the act. Applications shall be addressed to the Secretary, Maritime Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590.

(b) *Eligible Vessel*. A vessel eligible for enrollment in a MSP Operating Agreement shall be self-propelled and meet the following requirements:

(1) *Vessel Type*—(i) *Liner Vessel*. The vessel shall be operated by a person as an Ocean Common Carrier.

(ii) *Specialty vessel*. Whether in commercial service, on charter to the DOD, or in other employment, the vessel shall be either:

(A) a Roll-on/Roll-off vessel with a carrying capacity of at least 80,000 square feet or 500 twenty-foot equivalent units; or

(B) a LASH vessel with a barge capacity of at least 75 barges; or

(iii) *Other vessel*. Any other type of vessel that is determined by the MARAD to be suitable for use by the United States for national defense or military purposes in time of war or national emergency; and

(2) *Vessel Requirements*—(i) *U.S. Documentation*. Except as provided in paragraph (b)(2)(iv) of this section, the vessel is a U.S.-documented vessel; and

(ii) *Age*. Except as provided in paragraph (b)(2)(iii), on the date a MSP Operating Agreement covering the vessel is first entered into is:

(A) a LASH Vessel that is 25 years of age or less; or

(B) any other type of vessel that is 15 years of age or less.

(iii) *Waiver Authority*. In accordance with section 651(b)(2) of the act, MARAD is authorized to waive the application of paragraph (b)(2)(ii) of this section if MARAD, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, determines that the waiver is in the national interest.

(iv) *Intent to document U.S.* Although the vessel may not be a U.S.-documented vessel, it shall be considered an Eligible Vessel if the vessel meets the criteria for documentation under 46 U.S.C. chapter 121, the vessel owner has demonstrated an intent to have the vessel documented under 46 U.S.C. chapter 121, and the vessel will be less than 10 years of age on the date of that documentation; and

(3) *MARAD's determination*. MARAD determines that the vessel is necessary to maintain a United States presence in international commercial shipping and the applicant possesses the ability, experience, resources and other qualifications necessary to execute the obligations of the MSP Operating Agreement, or MARAD, after consultation

with the Secretary of Defense, determines that the vessel is militarily useful for meeting the sealift needs of the United States.

§ 295.11 Applications.

(a) *Action by MARAD*—(1) *Time Deadlines*. Not later than 30 days after the enactment of the Maritime Security Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-239, MARAD shall accept applications for Enrollment of vessels in the MSP Fleet. Within 90 days after receipt of a completed application, MARAD shall enter into a MSP Operating Agreement with the applicant or provide in writing the reason for denial of that application.

(2) *Closure of Applications*. Applications for MSP Operating Agreements shall be made only at such time as, and in response to, publication of invitations to apply by MARAD in the FEDERAL REGISTER. After the Administrator has fully allocated authorized contracting authority through the award of the maximum number of vessels allowed under § 295.30(a), MARAD will not accept any applications for award of new Operating Agreements until additional contracting authority becomes available, or existing contracting authority reverts back to MARAD.

(3) *Reflagging for Eligible vessels*. Except as provided in paragraph (a)(4) of this section, an applicant may remove a vessel from U.S. registry without MARAD approval if an application for a MSP Operating Agreement has been filed for that vessel, the applicant is qualified, and it has been determined by MARAD to be eligible under MSA section 651(b)(1) under a priority for which sufficient funds are available and the Administrator has not awarded an Operating Agreement for the vessel within 90 days of that application.

(4) *Reflagging ODS and MSC chartered vessels*. Vessels eligible under MSA section 651(b)(1) which are also subject to ODS contracts or on charter to MSC, and for which applications have been denied pursuant to § 295.11(a)(1) of this part, may be removed from U.S. registry only after those agreements have expired and only after the age requirement in section 9(e)(3) of the Shipping Act, 1916 (46 App. U.S.C. 808) has been met.